

AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A sterile patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol), and an acrylic polymer.

2. (canceled) ~~The patch of claim 1, wherein the patch is sterile.~~

12. (amended) A package containing a sterile patch, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol), and an acrylic polymer.

22. (amended) A method of inducing local anesthesia in a mammal comprising topically applying a sterile patch to the mammal, the patch comprising a breathable backing coated with a polyvinylpyrrolidone-based hydrogel, the hydrogel comprising one or more local anesthetics or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a poly(ethylene glycol), and an acrylic polymer.

23. (canceled) ~~The method of claim 22, wherein the patch is sterile.~~

Please add the following new claims:

54. The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 5% to about 35%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

55. The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 10% to about 30%, by weight, of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

56. The patch of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel comprises from about 0.5% to about 20%, by weight, of local anesthetic.

57. The patch of claim 1, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) is PEG-4, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, PEG-9, PEG-10, PEG-12, PEG-14, PEG-16, PEG-18, PEG-20, PEG-32, PEG-55, PEG-90, PEG-100, PEG-135, PEG-180, PEG-240, or a mixture thereof.

58. The patch of claim 1, wherein the acrylic polymer is polyacrylamide, polymethacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid, or a mixture thereof.

59. The method of claim 22, wherein the patch is applied to a non-intact skin of the mammal.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the patch is applied to a burn or wound of the skin.

61. The method of claim 60, wherein the patch is applied to a surgically closed wound of the skin.